STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by John Marshall Lee, Bridgeport

File No. 2018-022

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant brought this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, requesting that the Commission make a determination of Respondent Eleanor Guedes' right to remain an elector at an address in the City of Bridgeport.

The Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

- 1. At all times relevant to the instant Referral, Respondent Eleanor Guedes was registered to vote at an address on Noble Avenue in Bridgeport from on or about November 7, 2002 until on or about June 29, 2017 when her registration was transferred to an address on Teller Road in Trumbull and then again back to the Noble Avenue address on or about February 1, 2018.
- 2. At the time of the filing of the instant Complaint, Respondent Guedes served as Chairperson of the Bridgeport Civil Service Commission.
- 3. The Complainant asserts that Ms. Guedes lacks bona fide residence at the Noble Avenue address, should not be allowed to remain an elector in the City of Bridgeport, and as such cannot serve on the Civil Service Commission due to a residency requirement in the City Charter.
- 4. General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (3) (E) reads, in pertinent part:
 - (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall have the following duties and powers:
 - (3)...(E) To issue an order following the commission's determination of the right of an individual to be or remain an elector when such determination is made (i) pursuant to an appeal taken to the commission from a decision of the registrars of voters or board of admission of electors under section 9-311, or (ii) following the commission's investigation pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection;

- 5. As the Commission does not have the jurisdiction to make determinations of fact and law under a municipal charter, the sole issue before the Commission was to investigate and make a determination under General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (3) (E) as to whether Ms. Guedes remains a bona fide resident at the Noble Avenue address in Bridgeport.
- 6. However, subsequent to the filing of the instant Complaint, the Respondent voluntarily stepped down from her position on the Civil Service Commission, registered to vote at the Teller Avenue address in the Town of Trumbull, and removed herself from the voter rolls at the Noble Avenue address in the City of Bridgeport.
- 7. As Ms. Guedes' right to remain an elector at the Noble Avenue address is no longer at issue, this matter should be dismissed.
- 8. However, as this matter concerns bona fide residence, a dismissal here is without prejudice to any future examination of Ms. Guedes' right to be or remain an elector at any given address within the Commission's jurisdiction.

ORDER

The following Order is recommended on the basis of the aforementioned findings:

Dismissed

Adopted this 15th day of May, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut.

Anthony J. Castagno, Chairperson
By Order of the Commission

Salosone H. BRAMARIE

Vice - Chair